

## TORRENTIAL RAINS, LANDSLIDES 11 more killed in eastern India

Seasonal death toll crosses 230

AFP, KOLKATA

Eleven people were killed in eastern India after torrential rains swept away homes and triggered landslides, officials said yesterday, taking the country's monsoon death toll above 230.

Rainstorms that have swept across the nation lashed the eastern state of West Bengal causing widespread destruction.

Four people were electrocuted after rain gushed into their homes in Howrah and North 24 Parganas district, state disaster management minister Javed Khan told AFP.

Seven people died when their houses were washed away by downpours, he said, with several still missing.

In neighbouring Jharkhand state, scores of cars remain submerged in floodwaters after five days of heavy rain.

Experts say climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of annual monsoon storms between June and September.

Western Maharashtra state has been hit by severe rainstorms, with landslides sending torrents of mud onto villages and killing at least 200 people.

The northern Himalayan states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand have also been badly hit.

Seven people were killed in a landslide in Himachal Pradesh this week and another seven people died in an intense storm that hit the remote village of Honzar in Indian Kashmir.

Several tourists remain stranded in the two states, with debris blocking key routes.



A man walks past police officers patrolling the streets of central business district of Sydney yesterday, as authorities warned against the anti-lockdown protest.

PHOTO:  
AFP

2019 PULWAMA ATTACK

## J&K cops kill alleged mastermind

REUTERS, Srinagar

The mastermind behind a 2019 attack that killed 40 Indian paramilitary troops has been killed in a shootout with security forces, Indian police in Kashmir said yesterday.

Mohammad Ismail Alvi, the commander of militant organization Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) was killed south of the regional capital Srinagar, Vijay Kumar, the police chief of Kashmir told Reuters.

"Mohammad Ismail Alvi alias Lamboo alias Adnan was from the family of Masood Azhar. He was involved in conspiracy and planning of Lethpora Pulwama attack," Kumar said.

The encounter broke out early yesterday morning in Pulwama's Dachigam forest area. Security forces launched a cordon and search operation following inputs about the presence of terrorists there, NDTV said quoting a police official.

The search operation turned into an encounter after terrorists opened fire at a search party of the forces, who retaliated, the officer said.

A suicide bomber rammed a car into a bus carrying Indian paramilitary police in Kashmir on February 14, 2019, killing 40 of them in the deadliest attack in decades on security forces in the disputed region, raising tensions with arch foe Pakistan.

The Pakistan-based Islamist militant group JeM claimed responsibility for the attack.

The Indian government accused Pakistan of letting militant groups operate from its soil. Islamabad said it rejected the suggestion it was linked to the attack.

Days later, India carried out airstrikes on a Jaish camp in Pakistan's Balakot, which was followed by an aerial dogfight with the Pakistan Air Force, which had targeted Indian military installations.

CARBON EMISSIONS PLEDGES

## Countries need to be more ambitious: UN

AFP, Paris

Countries that have signed up to the Paris accord to tame climate change need to be more ambitious in their own national efforts, the UN's climate chief said yesterday.

Only just over half of countries that are party to the accord have submitted updated proposals for limiting their carbon emissions, Patricia Espinosa said in a statement.

And "the level of ambition reflected in those national climate action plans also needs to be enhanced," she said.

The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change that was adopted by 196 countries in December 2015 with the aim of limiting global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius and preferably to 1.5C, compared to pre-industrial levels.

Under the accord, every participating country originally had until the end of 2020 to submit new or updated "nationally determined contributions" or "NDCs". But because of the global coronavirus pandemic

and the postponement of the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow to November 2021, a number of governments said they would be unable to meet the deadline.

By the new cut-off date on Friday, "the secretariat (had) received new or updated NDCs from 110 parties," Espinosa said, including the United States, which came back into the Paris Agreement after former president Donald Trump pulled out.

"This compares favourably with new or updated NDCs from 75 parties received up to the end of December 2020... but it is still far from satisfactory, since only a little over half the Parties (54 percent) have met the cut-off deadline."

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has indicated that by the end of this decade, emissions must have been reduced by at least 45 percent compared to 2010 levels.

"Recent extreme heat waves, droughts and floods across the globe are a dire warning that much more needs to be done, and much more quickly," Espinosa said.

ALLEGED IRANIAN ATTACK ON OIL TANKER OFF OMAN

## Israel seeks UN action

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel is pressing for international action against Iran over a deadly attack on a ship managed by an Israeli billionaire, branding Tehran an "exporter of terrorism" after the likely drone strike.

The MT Mercer Street tanker was struck Thursday in the northern Indian Ocean, killing two crew members, in what the United States said was a drone-style attack.

There has been no claim of responsibility for the strike, but maritime industry analysts Dryad Global said "this latest attack has the hallmarks of the ongoing Israel/Iran 'shadow war'".

On Friday, Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid said he has ordered the nation's diplomats to push for UN action against "Iranian terrorism".

"I've instructed the embassies in Washington, London and the UN to work with their interlocutors in government and the relevant delegations in the UN headquarters in



New York," Lapid said on Twitter.

"Iran is not just an Israeli problem, but an exporter of terrorism, destruction and instability that are hurting us all," he said.

"We must never remain silent in the face of Iranian terrorism, which also harms freedom of navigation," Lapid added.

Lapid said he had also spoken to his British counterpart Dominic Raab, stressing "the need to respond severely to the attack on the ship in which a British citizen was killed."

Zodiac Maritime, the tanker's London-based operator owned by Israeli billionaire Eyal Ofer, said

a Romanian national also died in the attack. The Mercer Street, an oil products tanker, was travelling from Dar es Salaam in Tanzania to Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates with no cargo aboard when it was struck, Zodiac Maritime said.

The US military said that early indications "clearly point" to a drone strike on the Mercer Street, a Japanese-owned tanker flying a Liberian flag.

Iran's Arabic-language Al-Alam state TV channel, citing "informed regional sources", said the attack was a "response to a recent Israeli attack" targeting an airport in central Syria where Iran is backing the regime.

In June, Iran said it had foiled a sabotage attack on an atomic energy agency building near the city of Karaj west of Tehran. But aerial photographs obtained by a private Israeli intelligence firm revealed damage to the site.

Dryad Global said the attack was the fifth against a ship connected to Israel since February. Two ships tied to Iran were attacked in that period, the firm said.



In this photo taken yesterday, a boy receiving nucleic acid testing for the Covid-19 coronavirus in Huaian, in eastern China's Jiangsu province, as China raced to contain its worst coronavirus outbreak in months.

PHOTO: AFP

## US seizes tanker used to deliver oil to N Korea

AFP, Washington

The United States on Friday seized a Singapore-owned oil tanker that was used to make illegal oil deliveries to North Korea, the Justice Department said.

A New York federal judge issued a judgment of forfeiture authorizing the United States to take ownership of the M/T Courageous, which is currently in Cambodia.

The ship, which has a capacity of 2,734 tons, was purchased by Singaporean national Kwek Kee Seng, who remains at large, according to US authorities.

From August to December 2019, the Courageous would illegally stop transmitting its location information. Satellite imagery showed that during that time, the tanker engaged in ship-to-ship transfers of more than \$1.5 million worth of oil to a North Korean ship.

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN ETHIOPIA'S TIGRAY

## More than 100,000 children could die of hunger: UN

REUTERS, Wukro

The United Nations children's agency said on Friday that more than 100,000 children in Ethiopia's northern region of Tigray could suffer life-threatening malnutrition in the next 12 months, a 10-fold increase to normal numbers.

UNICEF spokesperson Marixie Mercado said that one-in-two pregnant and breastfeeding women screened in Tigray were acutely malnourished.

"Our worst fears about the health and well-being of children... are being confirmed," she told a briefing in Geneva.

Aid agencies say they are about to run out

of the formula used to treat 4,000 severely malnourished children every month.

In Adigrat General Hospital, Reuters saw medical records confirming the death of three more malnourished children. More deaths have been reported in other hospitals.

Doctors in both hospitals said they saw between four to 10 severely malnourished children monthly before the conflict erupted in November.

Now numbers have more than doubled. The UN says that around 400,000 people are living in famine conditions in Tigray, and more than 90% of the population needs emergency food aid.

REASONS FOR US 'FAILURE' IN AFGHANISTAN

## Lies, ego, hubris and mendacity

AFP, Washington

Lies, ego, hubris and self-deception: US experts are counting up the reasons for failure in the two-decade US war in Afghanistan, calling it ill-fated from the beginning, comparable to the American experience in Vietnam.

On Thursday the official US watchdog on operations in Afghanistan said it is too early to call the war a complete failure, because the government retains a slim chance of prevailing over the Taliban, the headline Islamists that the US and allies ejected from power in November 2001.

But he said that the US forces, who will depart next month, leave behind a corrupt and unmotivated Afghan security forces and a government that could easily succumb to the insurgents.

The "big question," said John Sopko, the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, is "after all the money, \$86 billion, and 20 years, why did we see such poor results?"

Sopko, whose Congressional mandate was to monitor the effectiveness of the military and development effort, said in a discussion with reporters Thursday that two words describe the

US experience.

"One is hubris, that we can somehow take the country that was desolate in 2001, and turn it into a little Norway."

"And the other thing is mendacity. We exaggerated, over exaggerated, our generals did, our ambassadors did, all of our officials did, to Congress and the American people, about 'we're just turning the corner, we're about ready to turn the corner'."

He said that the US military was fixated on short-term achievements and constantly changed its objectives to look better.

"Every time we went in, the US military changed the goalposts, and made it easier to show success. And then finally, when they couldn't even do that, they classified the assessment tool," he recalled.

Washington, he said, thought "that we would create a strong central government."

"And that was a mistake. ... And if you if you talked to any experts on Afghanistan, they would have said, it was a mistake. The problem is, we didn't listen to any of them."

"There can be little doubt that we lost the war," Carter Malkasian, a former senior

Pentagon official who served in Afghanistan for years, wrote in a newly published book.

He said that the Taliban showed more will to fight "invaders," while the people viewed the government as dependent on non-Muslim foreigners.

A report this month by Human Rights Watch said from early on atrocities and rights abuses by the Afghan government and US forces undermined the many positive benefits of social and economic development that the Americans brought.

"In these 20 years, the propensity of the United States to prioritize short-term military gains over the creation of genuinely democratic institutions and the protection of human rights fatally undermined both the US mission and the entire post-2001 state-building effort," HRW said.

"Don't believe what you're told by the generals and ambassadors or people in the administration saying we're never going to do this again. That's exactly what we said after Vietnam," Sopko said.

"Lo and behold we did Iraq. And we did Afghanistan. We will do this again. And we really need to think and learn from the 20 years in Afghanistan."

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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Memo No. 58.04.1500.111.04.028.21-4577

Date: 28-07-2021

### e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concern that the following tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal.

SL. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of work	Publishing date & time	Closing date & time
1	595926	Unnotamaner Mashur Dal (Mota)	29-Jul-2021 17:00	22-Aug-2021 11:30
2	596135	Unnotamaner Cholar Dal	29-Jul-2021 17:00	22-Aug-2021 11:00

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

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